

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2579

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJECT: FALL SOWING CAMPAIGN

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

REF: MOSCOW 11627

1. THE FALL SOWING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES MUCH AHED OF LAST YEAR WITH ALMOST 10 MILLION HECTARES MORE SOWN BY SEPTEMBER 24 THAN A HEAR EARLIER. SOWING DATA AS OF THIS DATE FOR PAST THREE YEARS ARE (IN MILLION HECTARES):

	1971	1972	1973
AREA SOWN	27.2	18.3	27.7
PERCENT OF PLAN	78	53	81
PLANNED AREA	34.9)	(34.5)	(34.2)

2. OCTOBER WEATHER FORECAST ("PRAVDA," SEPTEMBER 30) CONTAINED FOLLOWING COMMENT ON WINTER GRAINS: "SOIL MOISUTRE UNDER WINTER CROPS IS GOOD EVERYWHERE; SITUATION NOT EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE DURING OCTOBER. PLANT POPULATION IS NORMAL, BUT IN SOME AREAS PLANT DEVELOPMENT MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN NORMAL DUE TO COOL WEATHER. FAVORABLE SOWING CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED DURING OCTOBER IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS, CRIMEA, TRANSCAUCASUS, AND CENTRAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASIA."

3. COMMENT: ABOVE FORECAST SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC AS SOIL
MOISTURE DEFICITS IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE AND MOLDAVIA NOT
MENTIONED. WEATHER AND CROP REPORT PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 23
(REPORTED REFTEL) NOTED "IN SOUTHWESTERN UKRAINE, WHERE DRY WEATHER
PREVAILED DURING SEPTEMBER SOIL MOISTURE IN WINTER GRAIN FIELDS
NOT PREVIOUSLY LEFT FALLOW WAS SOMEWHAT POORER, AND IN PLACES
DEFICIENT." FIELD OBSERVATIONS BY AGATTACHES DURING LAST WEEK
SEPTEMBER CONFIRM DRY CONDITIONS IN SOUTH-CENTRAL UKRAINE
(ZAPOROZHIE-SIMFEROPOL) AND IN MOLDAVIA. FIELD CHECKS BETWEEN
ZAPOROZHIE AND SIMFEROPOL SHOWED LITTLE MOISTURE TO DEPTH OF
FIVE-SIX INCHES. IN KISHINEV, LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS
SAID "NO RAIN IN TWO MONTHS;" THIS ADMISSION SUPPORTED BY DRY
SOIL AND VEGETATION. ON BASIS THESE OBSERVATIONS AND PRESS
REPORT, AGATTACHE CONCLUDES SOIL MOISTURE BELOW NORMAL FROM
ZAPOROZHIE WEST. DESPITE THIS DEFICIENCY, IT IS PROBABLE THAT
FALL SOWING PLAN WILL BE CONSIDERABLY OVERFULFILLED, AND THAT
THE USSR WILL ENTER THE WINTER WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST WINTER
GRAIN AREAS ON RECORD.
DUBS

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